

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5525

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0853

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: BOTSWANA'S PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON PORTUGUESE AFRICA

REF : GABORONE 0721 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF 25 JUNE INTERVIEW OF BOTSWANA'S PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA WITH GOB INFO SERVICES. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE OAU SUMMIT HAD NOTED WITH SATISFACTION TALKS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. "WE ALSO NOTED HOWEVER THAT PORTUGAL HAD NOT YET MADE ANY FIRM COMMITMENT REGARDING THE RIGHT OF HER COLONIAL SUBJECTS TO TOTAL INDEPENDENCE." SIR SERETSE'S CONTENTION WAS THAT FOR PORTUGAL'S TALKS WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO SUCCEED SHE MUST DECLARE "UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT SHE RECOGNIZES THE INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU AND THE RIGHT OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE TO TOTAL INDEPENDENCE."

2. COMMENTING ON DISPUTE PROBLEMS BETWEEN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
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IN ANGOLA AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNITED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE

THREE TERRITORIES AND PORTUGAL, PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE FULLY CONSCIOUS OF NEED FOR UNITY AND ARE PREPARED TO WORK FOR UNITY. THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA AND GUINEA BISSAU "CANNOT POSSIBLY NEGOTIATE FOR A UNITED SETTLEMENT" BECAUSE GUINEA-BISSAU IS ALREADY INDEPENDENT WHILE MOZAMBIQUE HAS ONE PREDOMINANT LIBERATION GROUP AND ANGOLA DOES NOT. SIR SERETSE SAID HOWEVER THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THESE TERRITORIES SHOULD COORDINATE THEIR STRATEGIES IN DEALINGS WITH THE PORTUGUESE.

3. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT BOTSWANA'S ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WILL NOT CHANGE AS A RESULT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND HER AFRICAN COLONIES. "WE SHALL CONTINUE TO GIVE THEM OUR MORAL SUPPORT BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO DO MORE THAN THAT," HE ASSERTED. THE PRESIDENT ALSO ASSURED THE NATION THAT THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT THAT BOTSWANA'S ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IS UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED BY THE REST OF INDEPENDENT AFRICA AND "INDEED BY THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA THEMSELVES." BOLEN

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